

## FIREPLACES & SOLID FUEL-BURNING APPLIANCES

Fireplaces are often beautiful focal points in any room while some solid fuel-burning appliances can supplement your heating needs. These appliances must comply with certain codes to ensure a safe and energy efficient appliance.

Below is information to help you through the permit approval process.



### PERMITS REQUIRED

- **Building Permit**
- **Electrical Permit** if performing any electrical installations.
- **Gas Permit** if performing any gas installations.

### BEFORE OBTAINING A PERMIT

#### Reviews and Approvals

- **Fire Department Review** may be required depending on the type of solid-fuel burning appliance and requirements for CO detectors. The Building Official will determine if fire department review is required and will be responsible for forwarding the applicable information to their office.

### OBTAINING A PERMIT

#### Minimum Submission Requirements

- **Building Permit Application** and all supplemental information, including license and insurance, completed in its entirety and signed by the authorized agent (contractor) and the owner of the property. If the owner of the property is securing the permit then the *Homeowner Waiver* portion of the application must be filled out indicating that they will be responsible for the work associated with the permit.
- **Building Plans** must be submitted in duplicate on a minimum sheet size of 11x17 inches (no pencil) with a minimum scale of 1/4 inch = 1 foot (all dimensions must be shown) when dealing with the construction of new masonry fireplaces. When dealing with pre-fabricated appliances such as wood burning stoves, fireplace inserts or pellet stoves, the contractor/owner will submit two sets of manufacturer's specifications

outlining the components of the appliance as well as the manufacturer's requirements on how the appliance must be installed.

*\*\*\*\*Please be advised that if there are unique circumstances involving any given project or unique framing methods are being used then the Building Official reserves the right to require additional information beyond what is required to be submitted in order to ensure compliance with the Massachusetts Building Code, 780 CMR.\*\*\*\**

**Plans must show the following information when constructing a new masonry fireplace:**

**Chapter 10.00 of the Massachusetts Building Code, 780 CMR** governs the construction of fireplaces and chimneys. In an effort to assist you, please review **780 CMR Table 1001.1** which shows the dimensional requirements for masonry fireplaces and chimneys. As a supplemental attachment, please see **780 CMR Figure 1001.1** which shows a corresponding picture of where these dimensions are located on a typical fireplace/chimney detail.

*Plans/Details* submitted for your specific fireplace/chimney should follow the details noted above and show layout of fireplace including firebox, hearth and chimney. The plans should also include, among other information, type of materials being used, flue sizes, dimensions of firebox, hearth, chimney, etc., framing detail of floor and wall systems on which the fireplace/chimney is located to verify how close the fireplace/chimney is located to combustibles. The details should also show a section of the fireplace/chimney to show the height of the chimney in relation to the roof framing, height of fireplace opening, etc.

**Plans must show the following information when installing a new solid fuel-burning appliance:**

**Chapters 13.00 & 14.00 of the Massachusetts Building Code, 780 CMR** governs the installation of solid fuel-burning appliances. Solid fuel-burning appliances employed for comfort heating include but are not limited to, room heaters, stoves, fireplace inserts, furnaces and boilers. Fuel for such appliances could include wood, wood pellets, coal, nut shells, corn, etc. While the contractor/owner is responsible for complying with all applicable provisions in **Chapters 13.00 & 14.00**, in an effort to assist you, please review this general information sheet for these types of appliances.

*Plans/Details* submitted for your specific solid fuel-burning appliance should include the manufacturer's specifications for the appliance to be installed as well as the manufacturer's requirements on how the appliance must be installed. The plans should also include, among other information, type of materials being used for floor protection and details to show how the appliance is vented (i.e. direct vent,

into the existing chimney, etc.).

**\*\*\*IMPORTANT NOTE: Used solid fuel-burning appliances shall conform to s. M1401.6.3 of the Massachusetts Building Code, 780 CMR\*\*\***

The submitted information is reviewed by the Building Official. While some projects may be more complex than others, typically the plan review for these types of projects is 3 to 5 days.

If clarification or more information is needed then the Building Official will contact the licensed contractor or homeowner (if they are securing the permit) which may prolong the issuance of the permit.

Once the permit is ready, the licensed contractor or owner will be contacted by our staff to notify them that the permit is ready to be picked up and the permit fee amount required to release the permit.